

year, Mr. Adam served as the deputy chair of the CPC, representing the European Group.

Madam Speaker, Israel was accepted in 2000 as part of the Western Europe and Others Group, WEOG, giving it the right to apply for positions on U.N. committees. The country already sits on several important committees and representatives from Israel have served as deputy chairs in the United Nations numerous times. However, this marks the first time that an Israeli has been chosen to chair a United Nations committee.

For far too long, Israel has been considered a second class nation at the United Nations, unfairly subjected to unjustified one sided attacks from other nations. The facts make the case themselves: 6 out of 10 emergency special sessions called by the United Nations General Assembly have directly condemned Israel, while no emergency sessions have been held against some of the world's worst cases of genocide or repressive regimes.

Israel is also the only U.N. member state denied membership by all of the U.N.'s five regional groups which elect U.N. bodies in Geneva.

Israel also remains the only country of the Western and Others Group to have a conditional status, thereby limiting its ability to caucus with its fellow members of this regional grouping, compete for open seats, or run for positions in major bodies of the United Nations.

The fact that some member states have chosen to use the U.N. as an attack mechanism toward Israel while blatantly ignoring the despicable human rights records of other states truly undermines the United Nations' credibility, integrity and effectiveness.

I am hopeful that Mr. Adam's appointment will help contribute to the normalization of Israel's bilateral and multilateral relations, as well as challenge future disproportionate United Nations condemnation of Israel.

I am also hopeful that the newly appointed United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will work to end any unfair vilification of Israel at the United Nations and to use his good offices to support Israel's bid to join the Asian regional grouping.

Finally, I am hopeful that Israel will be granted membership on the Security Council for 2019 and gain full participation rights in the United Nations.

I ask for my colleagues' support and urge the House Leadership to bring this legislation to the floor for its swift consideration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 824 and 825, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO JOY ROSENHEIM SIMONSON

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, today I wish to pay tribute to Joy Rosenheim Simonson who passed away just a few weeks ago. Joy was a leading advocate for women's rights at a time when that was a steep uphill battle.

Joy rose to prominence in 1982, shortly after Ronald Reagan became President of the United States. At the first meeting of the National Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs, of which Joy was the chairwoman, the Council replaced her with the notorious anti-woman's rights advocate Phyllis Schlafly, who quickly proposed abolishing the council.

The firing of Joy led to an uproar among women's rights groups around the country, and several Members of Congress, including our distinguished colleague from Massachusetts, my good friend Congressman BARNEY FRANK, denounced her removal. BARNEY went further than simply denouncing the outrage. He immediately hired her as a staff member of the Subcommittee on Employment and Housing of the Committee on Government Operations. One of the wisest decisions I made was to keep Joy as a member of my staff. Joy was with me for the six years I served as Chair of that subcommittee. She was a loyal, devoted and energetic staff member. We met many times a week to plan subcommittee investigations and hearings. She sat right behind me in our frequent hearings.

Joy had a wonderful sense of issues that needed to be dealt with, and she had excellent ideas of how to take the next steps in promoting women's rights. We had outstanding hearings that resulted in tough reports adopted by the Committee dealing with women executives (the glass ceiling), discrimination against women owning automobile dealerships, problems women face finding daycare, discrimination against women who breastfeed their infants, and many, many others. When Joy retired from working for the Congress, she was the oldest staff member of the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, Joy Simonson dedicated her life to public service. Her decade of service on the staff of the Employment and Housing Subcommittee was only a small part of her very distinguished career of public service. She led several organizations devoted to women's issues and helped break down barriers for women. Born in New York City, Mrs. Simonson moved to Washington after graduating from Bryn Mawr College to serve on the War Manpower Commission in the early 1940's. Later, in 1945 she worked for the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in Egypt and Yugoslavia, and then worked at Army headquarters in Frankfurt Germany. It was during this period overseas that she met and married her husband Richard Simonson. In 1948, they moved back to Washington, DC. Joy and Richard are the parents of a son and a daughter.

Joy Simonson was the first woman to head the District of Columbia's Alcohol Beverage Control Board, serving from 1964 until 1972. During this time she also founded the National Association of Commissions for women, and served as its president for three terms. She also notably fought for Title IX, protested the exclusion of women from the Augusta National Golf Club, and in 1967 organized the D.C. Commission for Women.

In 1992 Mrs. Simonson was elected to the D.C. Women's Hall of Fame for her untiring work on behalf of women. She was also later recognized by the National Center for Women, who gave her the prestigious Formothers Award.

Madam Speaker, Joy was here on Capitol Hill several months ago—after the election which finally gave us the first woman as Speaker of the House of Representatives. She was delighted and pleased beyond measure at seeing a woman preside over this body, where she devoted over a decade of remarkable service during her remarkable life.

I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Joy Rosenheim Simonson.

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2874, the Veterans' Health Care Improvement Act of 2007, which will make the readjustment period easier for our troops returning from combat. It focuses on the improvement of mental health services as well as homelessness prevention.

These brave men and women in uniform have dedicated themselves to defending our freedom, and as a grateful nation we owe them whatever support we can provide to ensure that after they return home our veterans have their needs met.

This bill puts into place a number of important and timely measures to improve the care offered to veterans. It allows for readjustment counseling and mental health services provided by qualified peers. This will allow veterans to receive whatever therapy they might require to readjust to civilian life from fellow veterans who have undergone a similar process, and are best placed to offer understanding and quality care.

I am especially pleased that this legislation contains provisions addressing the needs of female veterans. It also deals with the prevention of homelessness for returning troops. The problem of homelessness is worse for the veteran community than society at large, and thus we must ensure that all programs, for both men and women, are of a high standard.

Finally, H.R. 2874 offers more support to low-income veteran families living in permanent housing. The Federal Government needs to provide more assistance to these families and the organizations that help care for them, and I am pleased that this bill offers that assistance. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation and support our troops as they return from their courageous missions.